

FOODATHON YOUTHS IN EAST AFRICA

Team

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Team Description

In Kenya and East Africa, where a large part of the population live in rural areas and rainfed agriculture is the main livelihood, droughts and floods have far reaching impacts on communities. One form of mitigating the negative effects of drought is the implementation of simple, small-scale, low cost project such as rain water harvesting (roof catchment) and community geomembrane plastic water reservoirs. This involves the capture, storing and redirection of rainfall, runoff, and groundwater. The water harvested on the tank and pond will not only used for household but also livestock and smart irrigation purposes which will improved food security and betterment in the livelihood of the targeted arid and semi-arid communities.

I believe the team together and I under Organic Ilemba we will be able to deliver if given a chance and support (resources) throughout the program so as to Achieve Zero Hunger.

Vision

To further organic and sustainable agriculture in arid and semi-arid region, food security, land care, and lifestyles in East Africa

FINANCIAL MECHANISM TO ARCHIVE ZERO HUNGER

Overview

We take a case study in Mbololo village, Taita Taveta county in Kenya with a population of more than 10,000. For our research we narrow down to 1,500 farmers who cultivate cassava.

Kenya is a country of many contrasts, from its landscape to demographics, and more so its social and economic inequalities. Kenya is one of the most unequal countries in the sub-region. Forty two percent of its population of 44 million, live below the poverty line.

Access to basic quality services such as health care, education, clean water and sanitation, is often a luxury for many people. Large segments of the population, including the burgeoning urban poor, are highly vulnerable to climatic, economic and social shocks. As such, progress on the Millennium Development Goals, especially in regards to social security, is mixed.

In Kenya, the people most vulnerable to food insecurity live in urban informal settlements and in the arid and semi-arid regions that make up 80 percent of the country's land area. A quarter of the population lives in these regions, which suffer from poverty, structural underdevelopment, conflict and disease. Droughts and unpredictable rain patterns exacerbate the situation, and 47 percent of the country's overall population lives below the poverty line.

In arid and semi-arid counties, people tend to respond to drought-related crop and livestock loss by adopting harmful coping practices, such as selling their only money-earning assets, withdrawing children from school, and undertake income-generating activities that damage the environment.

They are characterized with significant level of hunger due to the following factors

- They live in a Semi arid region
- Surround by chunks of idle land
- Lack of water
- Poverty
- Distant water bodies for fetching water

What is important for you as a farmer?

- Water
- Start-up facilitation
- Farming education

What do we need from financial to help our case?

- Financer whom will require year's repayments plan

- A financier whom doesn't require pre-requisites from the farms in order for them to access credit like Smallholder farmers have to demonstrate financial stability.
- Low or 0% interest rate

What kind of knowledge and information to comfortable to take a loan?

- Penalty that will be involve incase of a default
- Interest rate
- Market guaranty

What are uncertainties that you face?

- Availability of water
- Inadequate financial resources
- Market
- Innovative farming technologies

Place yourself in the position of the financier. What are your specific concerns?

- Concerned about Long term viability of the project
- If it will achieve the intended impact
- Political good will

What do you need from the farmer or other stakeholders to lend credit?

- A percentage based farmer collaborative contract with a facilitating organization
- Partnership contract with local county government
- A clear guide lines and policies governing the projects

What kind of information/knowledge is lacking for you?

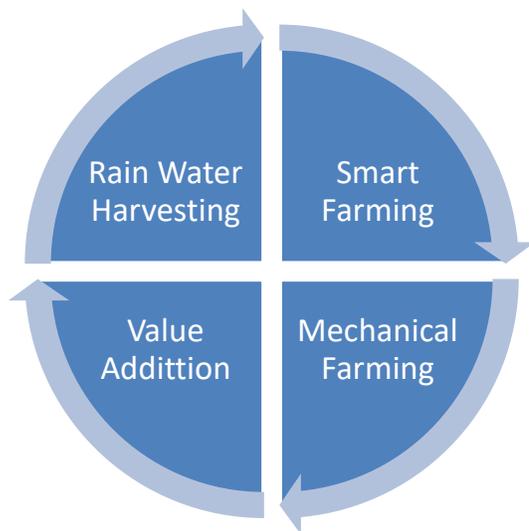
- Are the projects long term

- Reliability of the organization
- Market

Combine the two positions – Where lie the challenges and what opportunities do you see to solve the discrepancy between the two positions?

The challenge lies between linking the small holder’s farmers and the financier. To cub this gap the facilitating organization: in our case The organic *Ilemba*, takes the responsibility to merge the two parties. Another challenge lies between linking the small holder’s farmer’s local government institutes. Proving guidelines and policies governing the farming, production and marketing. Ready cassava farmer in the region whom are willing to adopt to the contract farming also plenty of idle county government land which can be use to constructing rain water reservoirs. Having a practical solution whereby start-up companies with innovative ideas which are able to restore landscape.

Take for instance ORGANIC ILEMBA, A Start-up Company creating an innovative project which is aiming to transform the cassava sector in Kenya, improve food security and increase household incomes mostly to Arid & semi-arid families. Our core value are:



Our aim at the moment is to help arid & semi-arid farmer/families of Taita-Taveta access water through rainwater harvesting (roof catchment) by providing them with Plastic rainwater harvesting tanks and Community geomebrane plastic water reservoirs. This project is focused on which providing clean water to rural communities in Arid & semi-arid families of Taita-Taveta through the design of Plastic Water Tank Storage reservoir and Community geomebrane plastic water reservoirs.

In Kenya, where a large part of the population live in rural areas and rainfed agriculture is the main livelihood, droughts and floods have far reaching impacts on communities. One form of mitigating the negative effects of drought is the implementation of simple, small-scale, low cost project such as rain water harvesting (roof catchment) and community geomembrane plastic water reservoirs. This involves the capture, storing and redirection of rainfall, runoff, and groundwater.

The water harvested on the tank and pond will not only used for household but also smart irrigation purposes on Cassava which is a climate resistant smart irrigated twice a week and after 6-8 months a farmer can harvest more than 40MT per Hectare which will improved food security and betterment in the livelihood of the targeted communities. In addition it will promotes gender equity, youth and female empowerment as it relieves the chore of collecting water from afar for many rural women. This solution is the only possible choice, which can solve their problem of water scarcity to the families of arid and semi-arid region in Taita-Taveta as the targeted county

We truly care about this land we call home, to achieve a better & sustainable living environment also achieving Zero hunger certain measures have to be put in place (which have been outlined on what Our innovation will want to tackle) therefore we acknowledge the fact that we can't do this alone with the help from corporations, foundations, nonprofits, government, and others and we believe partnering we can accelerate our innovation, validate our impact and business model, and scale our innovative solution for the restoration of our landscape.